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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 20 (b)
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions**

**Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: draft resolution**

# Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 43/206 of 20 December 1988, 44/178 of 19 December 1989, 45/229 of 21 December 1990, 46/176 of 19 December 1991, 47/160 of 18 December 1992, 48/201 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 L of 20 December 1994, 50/58 G of 20 December 1995, 51/30 G of 13 December 1996 and 52/169 L of 16 December 1997 and the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council on emergency assistance to Somalia,

*Recalling also* Security Council resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 and all subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, *inter alia*, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

*Noting* the cooperation between the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others in their efforts to resolve the humanitarian, security and political crisis in Somalia,

*Noting with appreciation* the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote peace, stability and national reconciliation,

*Noting with concern* that the absence of central authority and effective civil institutions that characterizes Somalia continues to impede sustained comprehensive development and

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that, while the environment has become conducive to some reconstruction and development-oriented work in certain parts of the country, the humanitarian and security situation has remained fragile in other parts,

*Welcoming* the joint strategy for efficient and targeted assistance and the framework for collaboration developed and adopted by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and reaffirming the importance it attaches to the need for effective coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies and their partners,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia,[1]

*Deeply appreciative* of the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the affected Somali population,

*Recognizing* that, while the humanitarian situation remains fragile in some parts, there is a need to continue the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction process alongside the national reconciliation process, without prejudice to the provision of emergency relief assistance wherever and whenever required, as security allows,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts of the United Nations system aimed at working directly with Somali communities, whenever possible, in the absence of a recognized national government, and welcoming the continued focus of the United Nations, in partnership with Somali elders, other local leaders and skilled local counterparts at the grass-roots level, as well as non-governmental organizations, on a programme of assistance combining humanitarian and developmental approaches, given the varying conditions in different areas,

*Re-emphasizing* the importance of the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services at local and regional levels throughout the country,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending assistance to Somalia;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance to the Somali people;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others to resolve the situation in Somalia;

4. *Also welcomes* the strategy of the United Nations focusing on the implementation of community-based interventions aimed at rebuilding local infrastructures and increasing the self-reliance of the local population, and the ongoing efforts by the United Nations agencies, their Somali counterparts and their partner organizations to establish and maintain close coordination and cooperation mechanisms available for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

5. *Emphasizes* the principle that the Somali people, in particular, at the local level, have the primary responsibility for their own development and for the sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance programmes, and reaffirms the importance it

[1] A/53/344

attaches to the creation of workable arrangements for collaboration between the United Nations system and its partner organizations and their Somali counterparts for the effective execution of rehabilitation and development activities in those parts of the country where peace and security prevail;

6. *Urges* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 so as to assist the Somali people to embark on the rehabilitation of basic social and economic services, as well as institution-building aimed at the restoration of civil administration at the local level in all those parts of the country where peace and security prevail;

7. *Appeals* to all the Somali parties concerned to seek peaceful means for resolving differences and to redouble their efforts to achieve national reconciliation that allows for transition from relief to reconstruction and development;

8. *Calls upon* all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement throughout the country;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia covering the period from October 1998 to December 1999;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 20 (b)
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions**

**Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan: draft resolution**

# International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 52/169 M of 16 December 1997,

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

*Recognizing* that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, has become a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

*Conscious* that the international community should pay due attention to the issue of the human, ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

*Recognizing* the need to coordinate national and international efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of the health of the affected population and the environment in this region,

[1] A/53/424

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*Bearing in mind* the need for know-how in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental problems in the Semipalatinsk region,

*Recalling* the Almaty Declaration[2] of the heads of the Central Asian States of 28 February 1997, proclaiming 1998 as the Year of Environmental Protection in the region of Central Asia,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, which constitute a useful input in the elaboration of an overall action plan to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Stresses* the need for greater international attention and extra efforts in solving problems with regard to the Semipalatinsk region and its population;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population in the Semipalatinsk region;

4. *Invites* all States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Invites* all Member States, in particular donor States, relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, to participate in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

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[2] A/52/112, annex.

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**Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan: draft resolution**

# International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

**Addendum**

*Add* the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Canada, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Germany, India, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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**Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Senegal, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen: draft resolution**

# Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 52/169 K of 16 December 1997 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

*Recalling also* the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[1] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

*Conscious* that Djibouti is included in the list of least developed countries and that it is ranked 162nd out of the 174 countries studied in the *Human Development Report 1998*,[2]

*Noting* that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those that occurred in 1989, 1994 and, more recently, in October and November 1997, and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes requires the deployment of substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country,

[1] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

[2] Published for the United Nations Development Programme by Oxford University Press, New York.

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*Emphasizing* that there is an urgent need to provide financial support in the areas of demobilization, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the regions affected by civil strife, with a view to strengthening peace and stability in the country,

*Noting* that the situation in Djibouti has been made worse by the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa and in particular in Somalia, and noting also the presence of tens of thousands of refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of Djibouti and caused security problems in the country, in particular in the city of Djibouti,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Government of Djibouti is continuing to implement a structural adjustment programme, and convinced of the necessity to support that financial recovery programme and to take effective measures to alleviate the consequences, in particular the social consequences, of that adjustment policy, so that the country may achieve lasting economic results,

*Noting with gratitude* the support provided to relief and rehabilitation operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti;[3]

2. *Declares* its solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti, who continue to face critical challenges owing, in particular, to the scarcity of natural resources and the continuing critical situation in the Horn of Africa;

3. *Welcomes* the implementation by the Government of Djibouti of the structural adjustment programme and, in that context, appeals to all Governments, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to respond in an appropriate manner, as a matter of urgency, to the financial and material needs of the country;

4. *Considers* that the process of demobilization and the reintegration and employment of demobilized soldiers is essential not only for the process of national rehabilitation, but also for the success of the agreements with the international financial institutions and for the consolidation of peace, and that it requires substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country;

5. *Expresses* its gratitude to the countries and intergovernmental organizations which have already contributed the sums pledged at the round table on Djibouti which was held at Geneva on 29 and 30 May 1997, and invites others to follow their example;

6. *Also expresses* its gratitude to the intergovernmental organizations and especially to the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the other funds and programmes of the United Nations system for their contributions to the national rehabilitation of Djibouti and invites them to continue their efforts;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close cooperation with the Government of Djibouti, his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

[3] A/53/361.

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the progress made with regard to economic assistance to Djibouti, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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**Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development**

**Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe: draft resolution**

98-35203 (E) 131198

# Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 46/139 of 17 December 1991, 47/92 of 16 December 1992, 48/100 of 20 December 1993, 50/161 of 22 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 51/202 of 17 December 1996 and 52/25 of 26 November 1997,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991, resolutions 1992/27 of 30 July 1992, 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, 1996/36 of 26 July 1996, 1997/56 of 23 July 1997 and 1998/44 and 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 and agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995, 1996/1 of 26 July 1996 and 1997/1 of 25 July 1997,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments adopted by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] and the Programme of Action,[2] and their pledge to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, social justice, the betterment of the human condition and social integration, based on full participation by all;

2. *Expresses its profound concern* at the seriousness of the current economic crisis in many regions of the world and of its negative social and economic consequences, demonstrating the necessity of full implementation of the commitments made at the Summit, and reaffirms the need to continue to evaluate the impact of structural adjustment programmes by, *inter alia*, integrating the social dimensions involved;

3. *Emphasizes* the urgency of placing the goals of social development as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action at the centre of economic policy-making, including policies influencing domestic and global market forces and the global economy;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need for revitalized economic and social development everywhere within a framework placing people at the centre of development and aiming to meet human needs rapidly and more effectively by, *inter alia*, enhancing positive interaction between economic and social policies, and stresses the need for strong, sustained political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being in order to achieve the objectives of social development;

5. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty[4] and the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty;[5]

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/53/211.

[4] A/53/329.

[5] A/53/223 and Add.1.

**Critical importance of national action and international cooperation for social development**

6. *Stresses* that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of Governments and that strengthened and coordinated international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation;

7. *Reiterates* that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to creating an enabling environment to achieve the goals of social development;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments and the United Nations system to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on social development;

9. *Reiterates the call* of the Summit for Governments to assess on a regular basis national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, and encourages Governments to provide information using the Secretary-General's guidelines for national reporting on the progress made and obstacles encountered, in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

10. *Considers* as a positive step towards greater cooperation and strengthened partnership among members of the international community the convening of its high-level meeting on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, held on 17 and 18 September 1998, on the overall theme of "the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications";

**Mobilization of financial resources**

11. *Reaffirms* that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development from all sources is an essential component for the comprehensive and effective implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

12. *Calls upon* all countries to develop economic policies that promote and mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investment and to seek innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for social programmes, while ensuring their effective utilization, and in the budgetary process, to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources and to give priority to providing and improving basic social services;

13. *Expresses concern* that the volatility of short-term capital flows can have negative consequences for social development, undermining the goals of the Summit and setting back progress in its implementation, in particular in developing countries, and underlines the need to study the ways and means to address the problem;

14. *Reaffirms* that a strong political commitment by the international community is needed to implement strengthened international cooperation for development, including social development, that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development from all sources is an essential component for the comprehensive and effective implementation of development, that enhanced efforts should be made for the mobilization and provision of new and additional financial resources for the development of developing countries and that, despite an increase in private capital flows, official development assistance remains an essential source of external funding, and notes that developed

countries reaffirm the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and 0.15 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance for the least developed countries, that donor countries that have met the 0.15 per cent target will seek to undertake to reach 0.20 per cent, and that further efforts are also needed to improve the effectiveness of official development assistance and to focus such aid on the poorest countries;

15. *Also reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, including international financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives that will contribute to a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus to support their efforts to achieve social development and, in this context, reaffirms the need to make further progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development by the Bretton Woods institutions, including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative;

17. *Recognizes* the necessity of providing appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition, as set out in the provision of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

**Involvement of civil society and other actors**

18. *Reaffirms* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, the major groups as defined in Agenda 21,[6] including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level;

19. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to continue to participate in the work of the Commission for Social Development in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and decisions 1996/315 of 14 November 1996 and 1997/298 of 23 July 1997, and in the implementation process related to the Summit to the maximum extent possible;

**The role of the United Nations**

20. *Welcomes* resolution 36/1 adopted by the Commission on the priority theme "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons" and the agreed conclusions contained therein;[7]

21. *Also welcomes* the ministerial communiqué adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1998 on "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in

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[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 6* (E/1998/26–E/CN.5/1998/7), chap. I, sect. B.

particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization"[8] and Council decision 1998/298 of 5 August 1998, in which it decided to dedicate the high-level segment of its substantive session in 1999 to "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women";

22. *Recalls* the session of the Economic and Social Council on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations international conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998 and, in this regard, takes note of Council resolution 1998/44, as well as decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998 entitled "Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields";

23. *Welcomes* the efforts of funds and programmes in assisting countries in implementing all Summit commitments at the national, regional and international levels;

24. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the Summit commitments aimed at the eradication of poverty, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries;

25. *Further welcomes* the contribution of the International Labour Organization on the implementation of the Summit commitments, particularly relating to its activities in promoting expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment as part of promoting social development;

26. *Takes into account* that the Commission for Social Development will examine at its thirty-seventh session, in 1999, the theme "Social services for all", and emphasizes the importance of the continued involvement and support by funds and programmes as well as specialized agencies, notably the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the promotion and attainment of the Summit commitment of promoting universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care;

27. *Urges* the continued involvement and support by the regional commissions in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the Summit at the regional and subregional levels, and reiterates its invitation to the commissions, in accordance with their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to continue to convene on a biennial basis meetings at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views, to identify and share best practices and lessons learned and to identify additional initiatives to strengthen implementation;

28. *Welcomes* in this context the convening of subregional meetings by the Economic Commission for Africa in December 1998 and 1999, and a regional meeting by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in December 1998 to evaluate the follow-up of the Summit in their regions;

**The special session of the General Assembly and its preparatory process**

29. *Recalls* its resolution 50/161, in which it decided to hold a special session in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives;

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. IV.

30. *Also recalls* its resolution 52/25, in which it decided to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

31. *Takes note* of the report and decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives;[9]

32. *Reiterates* that the objectives of the special session will be to reaffirm the Declaration and the Programme of Action agreed at the Summit and not to renegotiate them, to identify progress made and constraints therein, as well as lessons learned, in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and to recommend concrete actions and initiatives to further efforts towards full and effective implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

33. *Recalls* the provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee as adopted in decision 53/405 of 7 October 1998;

34. *Reaffirms* the need to integrate a gender perspective in all aspects of the preparatory work as well as in the special session;

35. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that the Commission for Social Development, which has primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, be entrusted with the responsibility of acting as the forum for national reporting, benefiting from a sharing of experiences gained and thus in 1999 and 2000 identifying areas where further initiatives are needed, for consideration by the Preparatory Committee;[10]

36. *Reaffirms* the decision of the Preparatory Committee that its substantive activities should take into account the results of other major United Nations conferences and contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in time for the respective substantive session of the Committee;

37. *Invites* all relevant organs, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to and be actively involved in the preparatory process and the special session by submitting contributions for the overall assessment of the implementations of the Copenhagen commitments as well as by, *inter alia*, submitting proposals for further actions and initiatives;

38. *Also invites* the International Labour Organization, which because of its mandate, tripartite structure and expertise has a special role to play in the field of employment and social development, to be actively involved in the preparatory process and the special session, to contribute to the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further action and initiatives therein;

39. *Further invites* Governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development in order to support the participation of the least developed countries in the work of the Preparatory Committee and the special session, and the work undertaken by the Secretariat in the preparations for the special session;

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[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45).

[10] Ibid., chap. VI, sect. B, decision 3 (a).

[11] Ibid., decision 4.

**Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the special session**

40. *Takes note* of the decision of the Preparatory Committee to hold its first substantive session in New York from 17 to 28 May 1999 and its second session, also in New York, from 3 to 14 April 2000;[12]

41. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee should establish an in-session open-ended working group during the second week of its first substantive session to facilitate consultations on organizational matters related to the special session;

42. *Also takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session;[13]

43. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Switzerland to convene the special session at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

44. *Decides* that the special session will be held at Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;

46. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development".

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[12] Ibid., decision 6 (b).

[13] A/53/210.

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Agenda item 37
**Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development**

**Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe: draft resolution**

# Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

98-36337 (E) 191198

**Addendum**

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Australia, Bahamas, India, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Niger, Thailand and Tunisia.

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General Assembly

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 38 (a)
**Oceans and the law of the sea: law of the sea**

**Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution**

## Oceans and the law of the sea

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 50/23 of 5 December 1995, 51/34 of 9 December 1996 and 52/26 of 26 November 1997 adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[1] ("the Convention") on 16 November 1994,

*Recalling also* its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ("the Agreement"),[2] provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

*Emphasizing* the universal character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,

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[1] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[2] Resolution 48/263, annex.

98-35359 (E) 161198

*Conscious* that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

*Noting with satisfaction* that oceans and seas will be the sectoral theme discussed at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in 1999,

*Reaffirming* the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3] as well as in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, in particular paragraph 36 thereof dealing with oceans and seas,[4]

*Recalling* that, by its resolution 49/131 of 19 December 1994, it proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean,

*Noting with satisfaction* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and the Agreement,

*Recognizing* the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the Agreement and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in their implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

*Taking note with concern* of the financial situation of the International Seabed Authority and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

*Conscious* of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the subregional and regional levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

*Conscious also* of the importance of education and training in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea,

*Taking account* of the importance of reliable hydrographic and nautical information to enhance the safety of navigation,

*Expressing its concern* at the increasing threat to shipping from piracy and armed robbery at sea and its appreciation and support for the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in this area,

*Expressing its appreciation once again* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in its effective implementation, including providing assistance in the functioning of the institutions created by the Convention,

*Noting* the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and emphasizing the importance of the performance of such responsibilities for the effective and consistent implementation of the Convention,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] A/53/456.

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement;

2. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention and to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity;

4. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 19 to 28 May 1999, during which, on 24 May 1999, the election of seven judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal") will take place;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Tribunal, established in accordance with Annex VI to the Convention as a new means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, delivered its first judgement on 4 December 1997;

7. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of Annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate lists of conciliators and arbitrators drawn up and maintained in accordance with Annexes V and VII to the Convention and to update these lists accordingly;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority"), and emphasizes the importance of continued progress towards the adoption of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Authority and the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationship between the United Nations and the Tribunal;

11. *Appeals* to all members of the Authority and all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal, respectively, in full and on time in order to ensure that they are able to carry out their functions as provided for in the Convention;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") during its third[6] and fourth[7] sessions, held in May and August/September 1998, in adopting its rules of procedure and in adopting provisionally its scientific and technical guidelines aimed at assisting States to prepare their submissions regarding the outer limits of their continental shelf;

[6] CLCS/7.

[7] CLCS/9.

13. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the fifth and sixth sessions of the Commission in New York from 3 to 14 May and from 30 August to 3 September 1999, respectively;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea[5] and for the activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28 and 52/26;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing advice and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 of resolution 52/26, and to ensure that the performance of such activities is not adversely affected by savings as may be realized under the approved budget for the Organization;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to provide timely information on the oceans, marine affairs and the law of the sea through its Web site on the Internet;[8]

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

19. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980, and to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs;

20. *Notes with interest* the ongoing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization towards a convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the instrument to be elaborated is in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

21. *Invites* States to cooperate in carrying out hydrographic surveys and nautical services for the purpose of ensuring safe navigation as well as to ensure the greatest uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to coordinate their activities so that hydrographic and nautical information is made available on a worldwide scale;

22. *Urges* all States, in particular coastal States in affected regions, to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and combat incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea and to investigate or cooperate in the investigation of such incidents wherever

[8] www.un.org/Depts/los.

they occur and bring the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law;

23. *Calls upon* States to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships, including by submitting reports on incidents to that Organization;

24. *Takes note* of the work of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and of its report entitled *The Ocean ... Our Future*, and welcomes its issuance in the context of the International Year of the Ocean;

25. *Reaffirms* its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

26. *Reaffirms also* its decision, in resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, to consider the results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of oceans and seas in 1999, under its agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea";

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to circulate the report sufficiently in advance of consideration by the General Assembly of the item concerning oceans and the law of the sea;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 38 (a)
**Oceans and the law of the sea: law of the sea**

**Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution**

# Oceans and the law of the sea

**Addendum**

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Algeria, Cameroon, Croatia, Greece, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Poland and Singapore.

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General Assembly

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 20 (b)
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions**

**India and Sudan: draft resolution**

# Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994, 50/58 A of 12 December 1995, 51/30 B of 5 December 1996 and 52/169 E of 16 December 1997,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

*Commending* the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations for their collaborative efforts with the Government of Liberia in its peace-building objectives,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all donor countries, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the European Union, the Bretton Woods institutions and the non-governmental organizations for their participation in the Donors' Conference convened in Paris on 7 April 1998 for the reconstruction of Liberia, and urges those who have not yet honoured their pledges and commitment to do so;

2. *Also expresses its gratitude* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and support for the peace-building process in Liberia, and urges that such assistance be continued;

3. *Calls upon* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to Liberia to facilitate the implementation of its National Reconstruction Programmes submitted at the Donors' Conference;

[1] A/53/377.

98-35341 (E) 131198

4. *Urges* the Government of Liberia to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of socio-economic development and a culture of sustained peace in the country, including a commitment to upholding the rule of law, national reconciliation and human rights;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize international assistance for the development and reconstruction of Liberia, and requests him:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help the Government of Liberia in its reconstruction and development, including the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;

(b) To continue his collaboration with the Government of Liberia objective of holding, in due course, the second round-table conference of donors to consider the funding of the second phase of the National Reconstruction Programme, depending on progress in the fields of human rights, national reconciliation and the strengthening of the rule of law;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-fifth session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

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General Assembly

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 20 (b)
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions**

**India and Sudan: draft resolution**

# Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

**Addendum**

*Add* the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Comoros and Greece.

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General Assembly

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 157
**Bethlehem 2000**

**Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chile, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen and Palestine: draft resolution**

## Bethlehem 2000

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the fact that Bethlehem, in the Palestinian land, is the birthplace of Jesus Christ and one of the most historic and significant sites on earth,

*Noting* that the world will celebrate in Bethlehem, a city of peace, the onset of the new millennium in a global vision of hope for all peoples,

*Stressing* the monumental importance of the event for the Palestinian people, for the peoples of the region and for the international community as a whole, as it comprises significant religious, historical and cultural dimensions,

*Aware* of the Bethlehem 2000 project as a multifaceted undertaking for commemoration of the event, which will begin at Christmas, 1999, and conclude at Easter, 2001,

*Aware also* of the needed assistance with regard to the above-mentioned project, and expressing appreciation for the steps taken towards increasing the engagement and participation of the international community, including donor countries, and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as well as the European Commission, religious institutions and others,

*Expressing the need* for immediate change in the situation on the ground in the vicinity of Bethlehem, especially with regard to ensuring freedom of movement,

*Stressing the need* for ensuring free and unhindered access to the holy places in Bethlehem to the faithful of all religions and citizens of all nationalities,

98-35625 (E) 171198

*Expressing the hope* for rapid progress in the Middle East peace process and the achievement of the final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides within the agreed time, so that the millennium may be celebrated most appropriately in an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation,

1. *Welcomes* the impending arrival of this global, historic celebration in Bethlehem of the birth of Jesus Christ and the onset of the third millennium as a symbol of the shared hope for peace among all peoples of the world;

2. *Expresses support* for the Bethlehem 2000 project and commends the efforts undertaken by the Palestinian Authority in this regard;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance given by the international community in support of the Bethlehem 2000 project, and calls for increased assistance and engagement by the international community as a whole, including private sector participation, to ensure the success of the Bethlehem 2000 project and the fruition of this monumental commemoration;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize the pertinent organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts towards ensuring the success of the Bethlehem 2000 project;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Bethlehem 2000" so that the General Assembly may have a renewed opportunity to reaffirm its further support for the event immediately prior to the occasion of its commemoration.

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**Fifty-third session**
Agenda item 157
**Bethlehem 2000**

**Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chile, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen and Palestine: draft resolution**

# Bethlehem 2000

**Addendum**

*Add* the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guyana, Ireland, Italy, Niger, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain and Vanuatu.

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 33
**Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies**

**Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia: draft resolution**

# Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

*The General Assembly*,

*Bearing in mind* the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

*Recalling* the Manila Declaration[2] adopted by the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies[3] in June 1988,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] A/43/538, annex.
[3] Then called the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies.

98-36025 (E) 181198

*Considering* the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

*Recalling* its resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994 in which it recognized the importance of the Managua Declaration[4] and Plan of Action[5] adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994, as well as its resolutions 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996 and 52/18 of 21 November 1997,

*Recalling also* the document entitled "Progress Review and Recommendations", adopted by the Third International Conference of the New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development, held at Bucharest from 2 to 4 September 1997,[6] in which guidelines, principles and recommendations were addressed to Governments , civil society, the private sector, donor countries and international community,

*Noting in particular* the recommendations contained in that document addressed to the United Nations system and the international financial organizations,[7]

*Taking note with satisfaction* of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance organized in 1998, as well as those currently being planned, under the auspices of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

*Taking note* of the views of Member States expressed in the debate on this question at its forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions,

*Bearing in mind* that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

*Also bearing in mind* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

*Noting* that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political end economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies will be held at Cotonou in the year 2000,

*Stressing* the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,

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[4] A/49/713, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] A/52/334, appendix.

[7] Ibid., sect. IV.

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General[8] and its focus on innovative ways and means to enable the Organization to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to requests of Member States for assistance in the field of good governance and democratization,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the activities carried out by the United Nations system, as well as the observations and recommendations contained in the report, with respect to building a political culture through human rights observance, mobilization of civil society, electoral assistance, free and independent media, enhancing the rule of law, and improving accountability, transparency and quality of public sector management and democratic structures of government;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute actively to the follow-up process of the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development;[9]

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support the efforts to consolidate democracy;

5. *Welcomes* the measures taken within the organizations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for coordinating their work carried out in the field of democratization;

6. *Welcomes also* the work carried out by the follow-up mechanism to the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development, held at Bucharest in September 1997;

7. *Recognizes* that the Organization has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts;

8. *Stresses* that activities undertaken by the Organization must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States through coherent, adequate support of their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

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[8] A/53/554.

[9] Ibid., chap. II.

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 33
**Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies**

**Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia: draft resolution**

# Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

**Addendum**

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Albania, Angola, Australia, Belarus, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Iceland, India, Lithuania, Monaco and Turkmenistan

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